

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
Location: WUTC - Olympia, WA
February 19, 2004

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Shirley Olson
Les Olson
Pat Morgan
George Hills
Richard Kuprewicz
Ken Thomas
Grant Jensen
Duane Henderson
Carl Weimer

Absent

Don Evans

Public present at the meeting

Rebecca Post, Department of Ecology
Katie Hansen, City of Bellevue/City & County Consortium on Pipeline Safety
Laura Blechen, City of Bellevue
Randy Sleight, Snohomish County
Garry Scott, Lewis County Public Works
Bob Archey, Roundtable Associates
Earl Tower, Olympic Pipeline Company
Secret Charles, Resident of the City of Seattle

Agenda:

1. Welcome & adoption of December 2, 2003 Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. OPS Civil Penalty Imposed on Olympic Pipeline
4. Information on the Pipeline Safety Summit
5. 2004 Committee Planning Session
6. Update from the Department of Ecology
7. WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update
8. Items for the Next Agenda

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. The December 2, 2003 minutes were approved as written.

2. **Public Comment** – Katie Hansen, representing the Washington State City & County Pipeline Safety Consortium, distributed to the committee a letter that was written to Secretary Norman Mineta of the federal Department of Transportation. The letter urged the Office of Pipeline Safety to collect the fines imposed on Olympic Pipeline Company for the explosion in Bellingham that occurred in June 1999. Ms. Hansen also reported that a contractor for Comcast Cable did a blind bore with a hole hog across OPLC's 16" and 20" lines. Olympic Pipeline Company caught them doing the digging. They started the bore in the right of way without a permit. The City of Bellevue is looking into recourse for this near miss incident, but they have found that cities have a lack of control and enforcement on this issue. Rick Kuprewicz wanted to remind everyone for the record that a pipeline does not have to be hit to cause damage that can rupture at a later date.
Randy Sleight, with Snohomish County Planning and Development, updated the committee on the concerns of the citizens that live along the proposed route of the Everett Delta pipeline project. FERC apparently has permitted an open-cut river crossing route which should hopefully result in decreased citizen opposition.
3. **OPS Civil Penalty Imposed on Olympic Pipeline** – Through an agreed Order, \$250,000 of the penalty has been collected from Shell, but there was no admission of guilt by Shell and they did not indicate that they were the operator at the time of the Bellingham explosion. The committee agreed and voted that a letter be sent to Secretary Mineta requesting collection of the Olympic penalty. Further, a response to the committee's concerns is to be requested.
4. **Information from the Pipeline Safety Summit** – The committee was given an update of the summit that was held on January 15, 2004 between some members of the Washington State City/County Consortium, the Pipeline Safety Trust and the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. The meeting was intended to share the objectives of each group and try to find common areas so that efforts in pipeline safety are not duplicated. The three groups involved with the summit felt there is a need for a website or brochure that contains pertinent resources to direct citizens to pipeline information. The three groups plan to meet again in the spring.
5. **2004 Committee Planning Session** – The committee members discussed their goals and workplan ideas for the upcoming year. Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, reminded the members of the committee goals:
 - a) Improve pipeline safety in Washington State.
 - b) Comment on pipeline safety rules and legislation.
 - c) Review the work of the WUTC and DOE.The committee would especially like to focus on public awareness of pipeline safety. They asked to include within this goal an information pamphlet on the siting process of new pipelines. Research of best management practices on public outreach initiatives and reviewing the WUTC public awareness project deliverables were other workplan ideas. The WUTC would like assistance in understanding what information the public would like available to them regarding pipeline safety inspections. The committee can help the WUTC determine what is sensitive, too technical or confusing. The WUTC would like to

make desired pipeline information readily available so that local governments may point interested citizens in the right direction.

Rick Kuprewicz brought up risk management as a possible workplan area. Alan stated that the WUTC is looking into risk as part of its recommendation from JLARC. Risk needs to be clearly defined.

Rather than a standing subcommittee, the committee thought it more effective to have an ad hoc subcommittee that would review and comment on proposed rulemakings and legislation as needed.

The meeting schedule was discussed but not determined at the meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be March 23, 2004. Deciding on workplan items will determine the need for subcommittees.

6. **Update from the Department of Ecology** – Rebecca Post, Pipeline Safety Coordinator, with the Washington State Department of Ecology presented the DOE’s 2003 drill results of pipeline companies. The companies regulated by the DOE that must conduct yearly spill drills are Tidewater Barge Lines, Chevron Pipeline Company, Yellowstone Pipeline Company, McChord Pipeline Company and BP Olympic Pipeline Company, Terasen Pipeline Company and the U.S. Navy at Whidbey Island.

7. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Update** – Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, gave an update on the current events in the pipeline safety section.

OPS Reorganization:

There was nothing new to report here. It is still proposed that OPS be removed from RSPA and be combined into a new administration including Rail and Pipelines. While there are potential advantages and disadvantages to such a proposal, it is likely too early to become proactive in the matter. Apparently, some federal legislative changes will also be required to implement the proposal.

Upcoming OPS Interstate Agent Meeting:

On February 25-26 a meeting is scheduled with OPS and all states that have interstate agency status in Alexandria, Virginia. A tentative agenda has been distributed with a broad set of topics for discussion including: (1) review of existing state policies, (2) guidelines, planning and scheduling of inspections, (3) areas of improvement from the OPS perspective, and (4) areas of improvement from state’s perspective. Washington raised concern relative to OPS timeliness in enforcement actions, lack of adequate public communication, a corrective action order (CAO) and enforcement process that is not understood and the staffing formula used by OPS to determine staffing needs at the state level.

Legislative Update – HB 2953 Amending the Public Disclosure laws:

WUTC staff sent the committee members an e-mail notifying them of this bill proposed intended to modify the exemptions provision of RCW 42.17. This bill was aimed at trying to protect critical infrastructure from being disclosed to the public upon request. The WUTC has concerns that this proposal would make it impossible for us to effectively implement our GIS program. While we could share GIS pipeline data with local governments, they could not share this data with the public. The WUTC also could not

share pipeline location data with the media or the public. This bill was not heard by the House State Government Committee, which means it is probably dead for this session. However, this issue is still unresolved for the proponents, Seattle City Light and PSE.

Williams Pipeline – Amended Corrective Action Order Update:

On December 13, 2003 the Williams 26-inch line ruptured near Toledo Washington. OPS issued an Amended Corrective Action Order on December 18th including seven elements on the 26-inch line between Sumas and Washougal and two elements with respect to the parallel 30-inch line in Washington and the 26-inch line running east to Goldendale together with all transmission lines south to Grants Pass, Oregon.

At the request of Williams, on January 21, 2004 a hearing was held in Denver. This hearing was attended by representatives of Williams, WUTC, and OPS from both the Denver Regional office and their headquarters office in Washington D.C. The purpose of this meeting was to request clarification on the elements of the Amended CAO.

OPS has received the metallurgical analysis on the Toledo failure and it was confirmed that Stress Corrosion Cracking was the cause of the failure.

Williams is working towards several internal “plan deadlines” contained in the Amended CAO. Further, they are continuing confirmation digs on several anomalies identified in CD and TFI runs in the 26-inch line. Pressure in the 26-inch line is below 100 psig south of Snohomish and approximately 185 psig north of Snohomish.

BP Olympic City of Bellevue Kamber Road Update:

Since our last report in December, a consultant for OPLC has completed a Finite Element Analysis of the 20-inch pipeline in Kamber Road. This analysis illustrates that the pipeline is stable following trench settlement in 2002. The pipeline has been determined safe for Kamber Road construction under carefully controlled conditions.

Considerable utility construction is required in Kamber Road over the next two short construction seasons in order to permit a new culvert crossing by the City of Bellevue. It may require a second “freezing of the sub-grade” to permit construction under very wet conditions. The WUTC continues to be involved and facilitate meetings among the parties in order to assure continued safety of Olympic’s pipeline.

Relative to the remainder of Olympic’s line, which remains under a CAO, they continue their TFI digs and hope to have those completed by the end of 2004. They also plan a horizontal drill under the Stillaguamish River this summer in order to make necessary repairs on their 16-inch line.

OPS and WUTC also met with officials from the City of Seattle to address Seattle’s remaining concerns relative to OLPC’s Seattle lateral.

Technical Assistance to Cities – Puyallup and Sedro-Woolley:

At the request of Puyallup, WUTC staff and Williams representatives attended a meeting with Puyallup elected officials to discuss Williams’ Amended CAO as it relates to the

pipeline that traverses the City. The City has requested frequent updates on status of the CAO as well as notification of any Williams' testing that may be conducted within the City limits. Further, Puyallup officials have scheduled a meeting with Stacey Gerard to discuss pipeline issues on March 9 in Washington D.C.

Sedro-Woolley requested WUTC to attend a work session of their city council. Also in attendance were representatives of Williams and Cascade Natural Gas, both of which have transmission lines that go through the City. The City's concern relates to new development directly adjacent to the Williams and Cascade pipelines. They have taken under consideration the "model setback ordinance" drafted by the Municipal Research Service Center (MRSC). This model ordinance uses the "C-FER circle" as a recommended setback from natural gas transmission lines.

GIS Check-in with local governments and first responders:

WUTC will be conducting some regional work sessions with local governments and first responders to review our status on the GIS mapping project required by statute. The purpose of the meetings is to check back with these jurisdictions to assure that our progress to date meets the needs assessment that was conducted early on in the project. In January, we gave our first briefing to the City/County Consortium.

One-Call OPS Grant Application:

The WUTC submitted a grant application to OPS totaling nearly \$47,000 for work to be accomplished in 2004. The majority of the money requested is to assist the NW Regional Common Ground Alliance develop a consistent reliable damage reporting system that would tabulate frequency, cause and consequences of dig-ins.

7. **Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings** – The committee requested an update on the Frause Group public awareness survey that was conducted in 2003 and current information on American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice 1162.